

# LEA

6. Hazard, or effect of leaping.  
Methinks, it were an easy leap  
To pluck bright honour from the pale-fac'd moon. *Shak.*  
You take a precipice for no leap of danger,  
And woo your own destruction. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
Behold that dreadful downfall of a rock,  
Where yon old filer views the waves from high!  
'Tis the convenient leap I mean to try. *Dryd. Theocritus.*  
LEAP-FROG. *n. f.* [leap and frog.] A play of children, in  
which they imitate the jump of frogs.  
If I could win a lady at leap-frog, I should quickly leap  
into a wife. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
LEAP-YEAR. *n. f.*  
Leap-year or bissextile is every fourth year, and so called from  
its leaping a day more than year than in a common year:  
so that the common year hath 365 days, but the leap-year  
366; and then February hath 29 days, which in common  
years hath but 28. To find the leap-year you have this  
rule:  
Divide by 4; what's left shall be  
For leap-year 0; for part 1, 2, 3. *Harris.*  
That the sun consisteth of 365 days and almost six hours,  
wanting eleven minutes; which six hours omitted will, in  
process of time, largely deprave the compute; and this is  
the occasion of the bissextile or leap-year. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*  
To LEARN. *v. a.* [learn, Saxon.]  
1. To gain the knowledge or skill of.  
Learn a parable of the fig-tree. *Mat. xxiv. 32.*  
He, in a shorter time than was thought possible, learned  
both to speak and write the Arabian tongue. *Knalles.*  
Learn, wretches! learn the motions of the mind,  
And the great moral end of humankind. *Dryd. Persius.*  
You may rely upon my tender care,  
To keep him far from perils of ambition:  
All he can learn of me, will be to weep! *A. Philips.*  
2. To teach. [It is observable, that in many of the European  
languages the same word signifies to learn and to teach; to  
gain or impart knowledge.]  
He would learn  
The lion stoop to him in lowly-wife,  
A lesson hard. *Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. i.*  
You taught me language, and my profit on't  
Is, I know not how to curse: the red plague rid you,  
For learning me your language. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*  
A thousand more mischances than this one,  
Have learn'd me how to brook this patiently. *Shak.*  
Hast thou not learn'd me how  
To make perfumes? *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*  
Ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which  
is written. *1 Cor. iv. 6.*  
To LEARN. *v. n.* To take pattern.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek  
and lowly. *Mat. xi. 29.*  
In imitation of sounds, that man should be the teacher is  
no part of the matter; for birds will learn one of another.  
*Bacon's Natural History, N<sup>o</sup>. 237.*  
LEARNED. *adj.* [from learn.]  
1. Veried in science and literature.  
It is indifferent to the matter in hand, which way the  
learned shall determine of it. *Locke.*  
Some by old words to fame have made pretence:  
Such labour'd nothings, in so strange a style,  
Amaze th' unlearn'd, and make the learned smile. *Pope.*  
The learned met with free approach,  
Although they came not in a coach. *Swift.*  
The best account is given of them by their own authors:  
but I trust more to the table of the learned bishop of Bath.  
*Arbutnot on Coins.*  
2. Skilled; skillful; knowing.  
Though train'd in arms, and learn'd in martial arts,  
Thou chusest not to conquer men but hearts. *Granville.*  
3. Skilled in scholastick knowledge.  
Till a man can judge whether they be truths or no, his  
understanding is but little improved; and thus men of much  
reading are greatly learned, but may be little knowing. *Locke.*  
LEARNEDLY. *adv.* [from learned.] With knowledge; with  
skill.  
Much  
He spoke, and learnedly, for life; but all  
Was either pitied in him, or forgotten. *Shak. H. VIII.*  
The apostle seemed in his eyes but learnedly mad. *Hooker.*  
Ev'ry coxcomb swears as learnedly as they. *Swift.*  
LEARNING. *n. f.* [from learn.]  
1. Literature; skill in languages or sciences; generally scho-  
lastick knowledge.  
Learning hath its infancy, when it is almost childish;  
then its youth, when luxuriant and juvenile; then its strength  
of years, when solid; and, lastly, its old age, when dry and  
exhaust. *Bacon's Essays.*  
To tongue or pudding thou hast no pretence,  
Learning thy talent is, but mine is sense. *Prior.*  
As Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,

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- so it is manifest from this chapter, that St. Paul was a great  
master in all the learning of the Greeks. *Bentley's Sermon.*  
2. Skill in any thing good or bad.  
An art of contradiction by way of scorn, a learning where-  
with we were long sithence forewarned, that the miserable  
times whereunto we are fallen should abound. *Hooker.*  
LEARNER. *n. f.* [from learn.] One who is yet in his rud-  
iments; one who is acquiring some new art or knowledge.  
The late learners cannot so well take the ply, except it be  
in some minds that have not suffered themselves to fix. *Bacon.*  
Nor can a learner work so cheap as a skilful practised artifi-  
can. *Graunt's Bills of Mortality.*  
LEASE. *n. f.* [laisser, French. *Spelman.*]  
1. A contract by which, in consideration of some payment, a  
temporary possession is granted of houses or lands.  
Why, cousin, wert thou regent of the world,  
It were a shame to let this land by lease. *Shakespeare.*  
Lords of the world have but for life their lease,  
And that too, if the lessor please, must cease. *Denham.*  
I have heard a man talk with contempt of bishops' leases,  
as on a worse foot than the rest of his estate. *Swift.*  
2. Any tenure.  
Our high-plac'd Macbeth  
Shall live the lease of nature. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
Thou to give the world increase,  
Short'ned hast thy own life's lease. *Milton.*  
To LEASE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To let by lease.  
Where the vicar leases his glebe, the tenant must pay the  
great tithes to the rector or impropriator, and the small tithes  
to the vicar. *Ayliff's Paragon.*  
To LEASE. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To glean; to gather what  
the harvest men leave.  
She in harvest us'd to lease;  
But harvest done, to chare-work did aspire,  
Meat, drink, and two-pence, was her daily hire. *Dryden.*  
LEASER. *n. f.* [from lease.] Gleaner; gatherer after the reaper.  
There was no office which a man from England might  
not have; and I looked upon all who were born here as  
only in the condition of leasers and gleaners. *Swift.*  
LEASH. *n. f.* [lesse, French; lesse, Dutch; laccio, Italian.] A  
leather thong, by which a falconer holds his hawk, or a  
couler leads his greyhound. *Hammer.*  
Holding Corioli in the name of Rome,  
Even like a fawning greyhound in the leash,  
To let him slip at will. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
What I was, I am;  
More straining on, for plucking back; not following  
My leash unwillingly. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
The ravished soul being flown such game, would break  
those leashes that tie her to the body. *Boyle.*  
2. A tierce; three.  
I am sworn brother to a leash of drawers, and can call  
them all by their Christian names. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*  
Some thought when he did gabble  
Th'ad heard three labourers of Babel,  
Or Cerberus himself pronounce  
A leash of languages at once. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
3. A band wherewith to tie any thing in general.  
Thou art a living comedy; they are a leash of dull de-  
vils. *Dennis's Letters.*  
To LEASH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To bind; to hold in a  
string.  
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,  
Assume the port of Mars; and, at his heels,  
Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire,  
Crouch for employment. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
LEASING. *n. f.* [leaze, Saxon.] Lies; falsehood.  
O ye sons of men, how long will ye have such pleasure in  
vanity, and seek after leasing? *Psal. iv. 2.*  
He 'mongst ladies would their fortunes read  
Out of their hands, and merry leasings tell. *Hub. Tale.*  
He hates foul leasings and vile flattery,  
Two filthy blots in noble gentery. *Hubbard's Tale.*  
That false pilgrim which that leasing told,  
Was indeed old Archimago. *Spenser's Fairy Queen.*  
I have ever narrified my friends  
With all the size that verity  
Would without lapsing suffer: nay, sometimes,  
Like to a bowl upon a subtle ground  
I've tumbld past the throw; and in his praise  
Have almost stamp'd the leasing. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
As folks, quoth Richard, prone to leasings,  
Say things at first, because they're pleasing;  
Then prove what they have once asserted,  
Nor care to have their lie deferred:  
Till their own dreams at length deceive them,  
And oft repeating they believe them. *Prior.*  
Trading free shall thrive again,  
Nor leasings lead affright the swain. *Gay's Pastorals.*  
LEAST. *adj.* the superlative of little. [leaze, Saxon. This word  
Wallis would persuade us to write *left*, that it may be  
analogous

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- analogous to *left*; but surely the profit is not worth the  
change.] Little beyond others; smallest.  
I am not worthy of the *left* of all the mercies shewed to  
thy servant. *Gen. xxxii. 10.*  
A man can no more have a positive idea of the greatest  
than he has of the *left* space. *Locke.*  
LEAST. *adv.* In the lowest degree; in a degree below others;  
less than any other way.  
He rejoyd'd to wave his suit,  
Or for a while play *left* in fight. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
Ev'n that avert; I chuse it not;  
But taste it as the *left* unhappy lot. *Dryd. Knight's Tale.*  
No man more truly knows to place a right value on your  
friendship, than he who *left* deserves it on all other accounts  
than his due sense of it. *Pope's Letters.*  
LEAST. } To say no more; not to demand or affirm  
LEASTWISE. } more than is barely sufficient at the lowest  
degree.  
Upon the mast they saw a young man, at *left* if he were  
a man, who fate as on horseback. *Sidney.*  
Every effect doth after a sort contain, at *left*wise resemble,  
the cause from which it proceedeth. *Hooker, b. i.*  
The remedies, if any, are to be proposed from a constant  
course of the milken diet, continued at *left* a year. *Temple.*  
A fend may deceive a creature of more excellency than  
himself, at *left* by the tacit permission of the omniscient  
Being. *Dryden's Dedication to Juvenal.*  
Let useful observations be at *left* some part of the subject  
of your conversation. *Watt's Improvement of the Mind.*  
LEAST. *adj.* [This word seems formed from the same root  
with *less*, French, or *loose*.] Flimsy; of weak texture.  
He never leaveth, while the sense itself be left loose and  
loose. *Shak. Schoolmaster.*  
LEATHER. *n. f.* [leðer, Saxon; leath, Erse.]  
8. Dressed hides of animals.  
He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about  
his loins. *2 Kings i. 8.*  
The shepherd's homely curds,  
His cold thin drink out of his leather bottle;  
Is far beyond a prince's delicacies. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*  
And if two boots keep out the weather,  
What need you have two hides of leather. *Prior.*  
2. Skin; ironically.  
Returning found in limb and wind,  
Except some leather lost behind. *Swift.*  
LEATHERCOAT. *n. f.* [leather and coat.] An apple with a  
tough rind.  
There is a dish of leathercoats for you. *Shakespeare's H. IV.*  
LEATHERDRESSER. *n. f.* [leather and dresser.] He who dresses  
leather.  
He removed to Cume; and by the way was entertained  
at the house of one Tychius, a leather-dresser. *Pope.*  
LEATHER-MOUTHED. *adj.* [leather and mouth.]  
By a leather-mouthed fish, I mean such as have their teeth  
in their throat; as, the chub or cheven. *Walton's Angler.*  
LEATHERY. *adj.* [from leather.] Resembling leather.  
Wormius calls this crust a leather skin. *Graw's Museum.*  
LEATHERY. *adj.* [from leather.] Made of leather.  
I saw her hand; she has a leather hand,  
A free-stone colour'd hand: I verily did think  
That he'd old gloves were on. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*  
The wretched animal heav'd forth such groans,  
That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat  
Almost to bursting. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*  
In filken or in leathern purse retain  
A splendid shilling. *Philips.*  
LEATHERSELLER. *n. f.* [leather and seller.] He who deals in  
leather, and vends it.  
LEAVE. *n. f.* [leaze, Saxon; from *lyzan*, to grant.]  
1. Grant of liberty; permission; allowance.  
By your leave, Ireneus, notwithstanding all this your care-  
ful forelight, methinks I see an evil lurk unspied. *Spenser.*  
When him his dearest Una did behold,  
Disdaining life, desiring leave to dye. *Spenser.*  
I make bold to press upon you.  
—You're welcome; give us leave, drawer. *Shakespeare.*  
The days  
Of Sylla's sway, when the free sword took leave  
To act all that it would. *Benj. Johnson's Cataline.*  
Thrice happy snake! that in her sleeve  
May boldly creep, we dare not give  
Our thoughts so unconfin'd a leave. *Waller.*  
No friend has leave to bear away the dead. *Dryden.*  
Offended that we fought without his leave,  
He takes this time his secret hate to shew. *Dryden.*  
One thing more I crave leave to offer about syllogism, be-  
fore I leave it. *Locke.*  
I must have leave to be grateful to any who serves me, let  
him be never so obnoxious to any party: nor did the tory  
party put me to the hardship of asking this leave. *Pope.*  
3. Farewell; adieu.  
Take leave and part, for you must part forthwith. *Shak.*  
Evils that take leave,

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- On their departure, most of all shew evil. *Shakespeare.*  
There is further compliment of leave taking between France  
and him. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Here my father comes;  
A double blessing is a double grace;  
Occasion smiles upon a second leave. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*  
But my dear nothings, take your leave,  
No longer must you me deceive. *Suckling.*  
Many stars may be visible in our hemisphere, that are  
not so at present; and many which are at present shall take  
leave of our horizon, and appear unto southern habitations.  
*Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv. c. 13.*  
To LEAVE. *v. a. pret.* I left; I have left. [Of the derivation  
of this word the etymologists give no satisfactory account.]  
1. To quit; to forsake.  
A man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to  
his wife. *Gen. ii. 24.*  
When they were departed from him, they left him in great  
dileases. *2 Chron. xxiv. 25.*  
If they love lees, and leave the luffy wine,  
Envy them not their palates with the swine. *B. Johnson.*  
2. To desert; to abandon.  
He that is of an unthankful mind, will leave him in danger  
that delivered him. *Ecclesi. xxix. 17.*  
3. To have remaining at death.  
There be of them that have left a name behind them.  
*Ecclesi. xlv. 8.*  
4. Not to deprive of.  
They still have left me the providence of God, and all the  
promises of the gospel, and my charity to them too. *Taylor.*  
5. To suffer to remain.  
If it be done without order, the mind comprehendeth less  
that which is set down; and besides, it leaveth a suspicion,  
as if more might be said than is expressed. *Bacon.*  
These things must be left uncertain to farther discoveries  
in future ages. *Abbot's Description of the World.*  
Who those are, to whom this right by descent belongs,  
he leaves out of the reach of any one to discover from his  
writings. *Locke.*  
6. Not to carry away.  
They encamp'd against them, and destroyed the increase  
of the earth, and left no sustenance for Israel. *Judg. vi. 4.*  
He shall eat the fruit of thy cattle; which also shall not  
leave thee either corn, wine, or oil. *Deut. xxviii. 48.*  
Vastus gave strict commandment, that they should leave  
behind them unnecessary baggage. *Knolles's History.*  
7. To fix as a token or remembrance.  
This I leave with my reader, as an occasion for him to  
consider, how much he may be beholden to experience. *Locke.*  
8. To bequeath; to give as inheritance.  
That peace thou leav'st to thy imperial line,  
That peace, Oh happy shade, be ever thine. *Dryden.*  
9. To give up; to resign.  
Thou shalt not glean thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them  
for the poor and stranger. *Lev. xix. 10.*  
If a wife man were left to himself, and his own choice,  
to with the greatest good to himself he could devise; the sum  
of all his wishes would be this, That there were just such a  
being as God is. *Tillotson, Sermon 1.*  
10. To permit without interposition.  
Whether Elia were a vassal, I leave the reader to judge.  
*Locke.*  
11. To cease to do; to desist from.  
Let us return, left my father leave caring for the asses, and  
take thought for us. *1 Sam. ix. 5.*  
12. To LEAVE off. To desist from; to forbear.  
If, upon any occasion, you bid him leave off the doing of  
any Thing, you must be sure to carry the point. *Locke.*  
In proportion as old age came on, he left off fox-hunting.  
*Addison's Spectator, N<sup>o</sup>. 115.*  
13. To LEAVE off. To forsake.  
He began to leave off some of his old acquaintance, his  
roaring and bullying about the streets: he put on a serious  
air. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*  
14. To LEAVE out. To omit; to neglect.  
My good Camillo;  
I am so fraught with curious buifness, that  
I leave out ceremony. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
Shun they to treat with me too?  
No good lady,  
You may partake: I have told 'em who you are.  
I should be loth to be left out, and here too. *Ben. Johnson.*  
What is set down by order and division doth demonstrate,  
that nothing is left out or omitted, but all is there. *Bacon.*  
Besfriend till utmost end  
Of all thy dues be done, and none left out,  
Ere nice morn on the Indian steep  
From her cabin'd loop-hole peep.  
We ask, if those subvert  
Reason's establish'd maxims, who assert  
That we the world's existence may conceive,  
Though we one atom out of matter leave. *Blackmore.*  
I always